

Appl. No. 10/697,614
Amdt. dated June 12, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of January 10, 2006

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more particularly describe the invention. Claims 4 and 9 have been canceled. New claims 10 and 11 are supported by Figures 3 and 4. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of written description. While Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended, thereby rendering the rejection moot. It is believed that the specification and drawings provide support for stating that the casing is fixed to the base end of the valve stem. Support for the newly added limitations may be found, for example, at page 7, lines 12-19 as well as original claims 4 and 9. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Chuang et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,591,672, in view of Admitted Prior Art. In order for the claimed invention to be rendered obvious, one of the necessities of such a rejection is that the cited combination disclose each and every claimed element. At a minimum, this requirement is lacking, particularly with respect to the amended claims.

Once again, the Examiner has asserted that the claimed engagement recessed portion (claim 1) or recessed portion (claim 7) is met by element (53) of Chuang et al. This is not correct. The elongated hole (53) is formed in a sensor housing to accommodate a valve stem (19). A valve stem cavity (51) is also formed within the sensor housing to accommodate the valve stem (19). However, neither of these elements is described as being suitable for purposes of engaging with a jig or a tool when mounting the condition sensor.

Chuang et al. cannot be considered as describing or suggesting the claimed (engagement) recessed portion. Applicant's Admitted Prior art does not disclose the claimed (engagement) recessed portion. Thus, this is a claimed element not disclosed by either reference. As a result, the *prima facie* obviousness rejection is flawed and should be withdrawn. Moreover, there would not appear to be any reasonable expectation of success upon combining the references as

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suggested by the Examiner, and therefore another requirement of a *prima facie* obviousness rejection is missing.

As previously discussed, the Examiner has asserted that Chuang et al. disclose a specific tool for affixing the sensor, and has pointed to column 4, lines 39-40 for support. The cited text means that a tire pressure sensor is provided with a tire valve stem having a spherical stopper such that the valve stem pivots relative to the sensor housing. Since the spherical stopper allows the valve stem to rotate relative to the sensor housing, the valve stem needs to be affixed by a specific tool to prevent the valve stem from rotating relative to the sensor housing when a nut is screwed on the valve stem to connect the sensor housing to the valve stem. That is, Chuang et al. disclose that the specific tool is used for affixing the valve stem to the sensor housing such that the valve stem is prevented from rotating relative to the sensor housing. Therefore, Chuang et al. do not disclose or suggest the claimed jig.

With respect to the Admitted Prior Art, Applicant has merely admitted that a clamp-in valve having no sensor casing is mounted in the vehicle wheel by using an automatic mounting machine with a jig. Therefore, the Admitted Prior Art does not remedy the noted shortcomings of Chuang et al. Once again, the cited combination fails to describe each and every claimed element, and once again the *prima facie* obviousness rejection is flawed and should be withdrawn.

Moreover, the claims have been amended to recite that the engagement recessed portion (claim 1) or the recessed portion (claim 7) has a shape such that rotation of the casing relative to the jig is limited. Neither Chuang et al. nor the Admitted Prior Art describe or suggest this claimed element. Once again, the *prima facie* obviousness rejection is flawed and should be withdrawn. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/697,614

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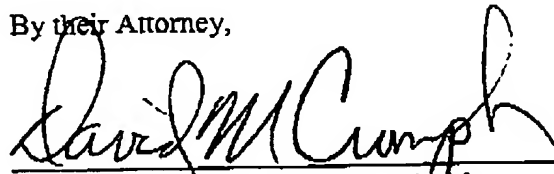
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Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshitaka Ito et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: 6/12/06

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